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November 12, 2003

To: Health Care Service Providers

From: Allison J. Stuart, Executive Lead
SARS Operations Centre

Re: Infection Control Standards Taskforce

In the Contextual Framework document circulated October 22, 2003, reference was made to infection control expectations in non-outbreak conditions. An Infection Control Standards Taskforce was struck

“To review existing directives and draft directives on non-outbreak conditions, Routine Practice Guidelines from Health Canada, and other relevant documents to recommend to the Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care infection control standards for use in Ontario by hospitals, long-term care facilities and community-based practices.”

The Taskforce is co-chaired by Drs. James R. MacLean, President and Chief Executive Officer at Markham Stouffville Hospital, and Robin Williams, Medical Officer of Health for Regional Niagara Public Health Department. A list of the members of the Taskforce will be made available shortly.

The Taskforce is focusing its initial efforts on confirming the surveillance expectations during a non-outbreak before addressing wider infection control standards issues. The members are having a teleconference meeting this week and a day-and-a-half meeting next week to review the information currently available, establish surveillance principles and practices and to make recommendations to the Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

You can anticipate receiving further material which will reflect the work of this Taskforce.

Original signed by

Allison J. Stuart